Cal Grants

Money for College

Everyone should apply!

Cal Grants are guaranteed for all students who qualify

Cal Grants are free dollars—up to $9,700 for college or up to $3,000 for career training each year—that do not have to be paid back. They can be used at any University of California, California State University or California Community College, as well as most independent colleges and many career or technical schools in California.

Cal Grant A Entitlement Award

Students who meet all the Cal Grant requirements, have at least a 3.0 grade point average, and apply by March 2 either of the year they graduate from high school or the following year are guaranteed a Cal Grant A. The Cal Grant A Entitlement award provides for tuition and fees at the California State University and the University of California, as well as tuition support at qualifying independent colleges and universities and career colleges.*

Cal Grant B Entitlement Award

Students who meet all the Cal Grant requirements, and have at least a 2.0 GPA and apply by March 2 of the year they graduate from high school or the following year are guaranteed a Cal Grant B. The Cal Grant B Entitlement award provides up to $1,551 for books and living expenses for students in their first year of college. For the second and subsequent years, the award also provides for tuition and fees at the California State University and the University of California, as well as tuition support at qualifying independent colleges and universities and career colleges.*

Cal Grant A and B Transfer Entitlement Awards

California Community College students who meet all the Cal Grant requirements, have at least a 2.4 community college GPA and meet the award's additional requirements are guaranteed a Cal Grant to attend a four-year college. To qualify, students also must have graduated from a California high school after June 30, 2000, have been a California resident at the time they graduated and be under age 28 as of December 31 of the year in which they first receive an award. In addition, students cannot have received a Cal Grant within a year of graduating from high school.

Basic Cal Grant Requirements

To qualify for a Cal Grant, students must:

- submit the FAFSA and their verified Cal Grant GPA by the deadline
- be a California resident
- be a U.S. citizen or an eligible noncitizen
- have financial need
- meet any minimum GPA requirement
- meet U.S. Selective Service requirements (most males ages 18-25)
- attend a qualifying California postsecondary institution
- be enrolled at least half time
- maintain satisfactory academic progress as defined by their school
- have family income and assets below the established ceilings
- not be in default on any student loan or owe a refund on a federal or state grant

*Cal Grant-eligible students who attend a California Community College may have their fees waived through the Board of Governors Fee Waiver Program. Contact your community college's financial aid office to learn more.

All students are encouraged to apply for a Cal Grant and other financial aid, even if they think their families make too much money. Many things can happen between the time they submit their FAFSA and the start of school that can dramatically change their family's situation.

Everyone should apply!

Other Cal Grants

Cal Grant A and B Competitive Awards

Students who are not eligible for a Cal Grant A or B Entitlement award may compete for a Cal Grant A or B Competitive award.

Cal Grant Competitive awards are the same as Cal Grant Entitlement awards except that they are not guaranteed. Each year, 22,500 Cal Grant Competitive awards are available. Of these, 11,250 are for students who do not qualify for a Cal Grant Entitlement award, but who otherwise meet the Cal Grant requirements and apply by March 2. Eligibility is geared toward nontraditional students and takes into consideration family income, parent's educational level, GPA, time out of high school, high school performance standards and other factors, such as whether the student comes from a single-parent household or is a former foster youth.

The remaining 11,250 awards are set aside for eligible California Community College students who meet the September 2 deadline.

Cal Grant C

Cal Grant C helps pay for a technical or career education. It provides up to $576 a year for books, tools and equipment—and up to $2,592 more for tuition and fees for students attending a school other than a California Community College. To qualify, students must meet the Cal Grant requirements and be enrolled in a program that is at least four months in length.

How to Apply

It Takes Two
To apply for a Cal Grant, students must submit two things by the Cal Grant deadline:
- the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)
  and
- their verified Cal Grant GPA

The FAFSA
The easiest and fastest way for students to submit the FAFSA is online at **www.fafsa.ed.gov**. Students should get a PIN, or personal identification number, ahead of time at **www.fafsa.ed.gov** to electronically sign their FAFSA.

Verified Cal Grant GPA
A number of schools submit GPAs electronically for their students. Students whose schools do not must submit their verified GPA using the Cal Grant GPA Verification Form. The form is available at **www.calgrants.org** or **www.csac.ca.gov**. The form must be signed by a school official and mailed to the California Student Aid Commission—it cannot be submitted online.

Cal Grant Deadlines*
March 2
Students must submit the FAFSA and their verified Cal Grant GPA by March 2.

Second Deadline for Community College Students
September 2
Students who will be attending a California Community College in the fall and missed the March 2 deadline have until September 2 to apply for a Cal Grant. However, it is to their advantage to meet the earlier March 2 deadline because only a limited number of awards are available for those who apply in the fall.

WebGrants for Students

For answers about their Cal Grant applications now, or awards later, students can use WebGrants for Students at **www.calgrants.org** or **www.csac.ca.gov.**

For More Information

On the Web
www.calgrants.org
www.csac.ca.gov

Call toll free
888.224.7268 (888.CA.GRANT)
Students can track their application using the automated system or talk with a student support representative.

E-mail
studentsupport@csac.ca.gov

Write to
California Student Aid Commission
P.O. Box 419027
Rancho Cordova, CA 95741-9027

For help completing the FAFSA
Students can contact their school or attend a California Cash for College workshop. Visit **www.calgrants.org** (select "Workshops") to learn more.

For a list of Cal Grant eligible schools
Go to **www.csac.ca.gov** and select "Search for a Cal Grant Eligible School."

**CALIFORNIA
STUDENT AID
COMMISSION**

*If March 2 or September 2 falls on a Saturday, Sunday or holiday, applications will be accepted through the next working day.
This flyer provides general information. If there is any difference between the information here and California law, California law will apply.